Statement-III

Interest Payment during 2000-2001 to 2002-2003

(Figures in Rs. crore)

Institution	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
International Development Association (IDA)	628.46	671.90	732.61
Asian Development Bank (ADB)	726.98	812.20	990.76
International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD)	9.85	10.01	10.72
International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)	1460.29	1312.84	1279.26

PAN card holders in the country

3308. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of PAN card holders in the country including the four metros as on December, 2002;

(b) how many applications are pending for more than one year/six months for issuance of these cards;

(c) whether it is a fact that many cards are wrongly printed causing problems to the card holders;

(d) what action is being taken to correct these cards; and

(e) whether it is also a fact the services of this division is very poor and the steps taken to improve it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Total Number of PAN card holders in the country as on 31.12.2002 (including four metros) was 2.36 crores.

(b) The pendancy of applications as on 31.12.2002 comes to 17 lakhs which is mainly due to core deficiencies in the applications. Age-wise break up of pendency is not maintained.

(c) and (d) As per the procedure prescribed, the information, to be printed on PAN cards is checked with reference to the applications filed. In some cases however, inadvertent mistakes have appeared on the PAN cards. The mistakes are corrected as and when these are detected or brought to the notice of the Department.

(e) No, Sir. The Department has, however, decided to outsource certain non-core activities, and accordingly. It has been decided to entrust the services relating to allotment of PAN to M/s UTI Investor Services Ltd. (UTISL) for enhanced taxpayer service.

Fake Notes in Banks

†3309. SHRI ABHAY KANT PRASAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention have been drawn to the news-item which appeared in Rashtriya Sahara under the caption 'Bankon se bhi asli note milne ki guarantee nahin rahi ab' dated 27th March, 2003;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to provide genuine notes to the account holders through all the banks in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Yes. Sir.

(b) and (c) Considering instances of recovery of counterfeit currency through the Banking System and to provide genuine notes to the account holders/public by all banks, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has instructed all the currency chest branches of the banks to carefully examine the notes received by them at their end and segregate and impound the forged notes found in note packets, and to ensure that in no case the entire note packet with forged notes therein is returned to the tender. The banks have been cautioned that continuous detection of forged notes in their remittances would be construed as their willful involvement in the circulation of forged notes and the matter will be reported to police for necessary investigation after suspending the chest operations. The banks have been advised by RBI to set up Forged Note Vigilance Cell at their Head Offices for monitoring the implementation of RBI instructions etc. on forged notes.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.